

Briarwood Site Council Minutes
September 30, 2008

Members present: Drew Terry, Anne Miller, Amy Hayes, Angela Gillen, Sharon Solie, Nancy Nievaard, Marye Kaye Anderson, Lara Chung, Joan Siegfried

Housekeeping:

- Minutes recorder assignments: Joan/Sept.; Amy/Oct.; Anne/Nov.; Angela/Jan.; Sharon/Feb.; Lara/March; Nancy/April; Jason/May; Marye Kaye/June (if needed)

Site Council Specifics:

- Drew introduced everyone to the Introduction/Training Course materials. They are to be studied at home. Evaluations should be turned in at the Oct. 28 meeting.
- He gave a brief overview of BSC, emphasizing it is not for individual/personnel issues and that anyone can come to and speak at meetings.

Building Update:

- There are 7 new staff members at Briarwood, 3 classroom and 4 specialist/support positions: Jennifer Moore (Full-Day Kindergarten), Jenna Thoresen (1st Grade), Angela Gillen (2nd Grade), Joanne Conner (Speech), Erin Seibert (OT), Cherrone Shafir (Kitchen), and Shawn Floyd (Night Custodian).
- Enrollment is 422 (10 fewer than last year).
- E-News is being sent to 424 email addresses on Wednesdays (and as needed). The addition of a summary box of upcoming dates to the bottom of E-News was proposed and agreed on.
- Drew distributed color-coded calendars of both kids and staff activities.

Meet the Teacher Day/Curriculum Night:

- Next year's dates will be set at the next Staff Meeting.
- Everyone seems to like Meet the Teacher Day.
- Teachers and parents like Wednesday for Curriculum Night (more prep/homework time). It was suggested that we separate the K-2 and 3-5 Curriculum Nights by a week so some parents don't have to come two consecutive nights.

- The issue of accommodating working parents came up. The 6pm Curriculum Night start is hard for them, but easier on staff. Also, the AM/PM Kindergarten orientation time is hard for many (but the whole District does it this way). It was also questioned whether the AM/PM parents need to come to both orientation and Curriculum Night.
- It was suggested that Staff Appreciation supply food for Curriculum Night, since it's a long day for teachers.

Staff Development:

- More math training is happening this year.
- Other topics include new report card training, Active board use, and a training session on autism and how to work with these students.
- It was suggested that a future topic might be ADD recognition.

Building changes:

- Birthday recognition policy - kids don't like it, but teachers and many parents do. Teachers are finding non-food ways to recognize birthdays.
- Recess/lunch reversal - getting smoother. Teachers notice fewer discipline issues, fewer water lines, and easier transitions. Lunch staff report that students are eating more and drinking more milk. Drew is nervous about Student Recognition lunches (crowding).

District Update:

- Year 2 of Everyday Math - teachers are continuing to get training. Grade 5 scores were up last year. Grade 4 held steady.
- Enrollment is up 140 district-wide. This includes 120 at Grand Ridge alone, which has 880 students enrolled.
- Conversion of the Freshman campus to Middle School #5 has been delayed until 2010 because of permit delays.
- Boundary Review Committee should be done by December. Briarwood is represented by Jenna Thoresen and Drew. No real changes are expected in the Briarwood area.
- Pet policy - kids are unhappy about it (as are many parents). The district had to adopt a consistent policy after several (mostly dog-related) issues came up.
- Issaquah Schools Foundation lunch is coming up October 16. Briarwood is buying a table.

- This year elementary schools are seeking ISF funding for math tutoring after school and an activity bus.

Community Update:

- The school is planning its Emergency Preparedness drills.
- Drew is seeking clarification on whether the school must have monthly fire drills or if other drilling counts toward preparedness requirements.
- Parent volunteers will be sought for an upcoming extensive earthquake drill.

HOMEWORK:

Complete the Site Council Training Course Evaluation and bring to the October 28 meeting.